

REMARKS

Claims 25-29 are pending in the application. Applicant notes with appreciation that prior rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been withdrawn.

Claims 25-29 now are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement (Office Action, page 2). In particular, the Examiner asserts that the claims encompass the administration of entire recombinant cells and further asserts that the specification does not support the administration of entire cells, and that the Applicant thus has not enabled the invention as claimed (Office Action, page 3).

The Examiner characterizes the claims as being drawn to transformed T cells *as the agent* for active immunotherapy (Office action, page 2). Applicant respectfully disagrees, and submit that it is clear from the claims and the supporting discussion in the specification that the claimed cells express a multivalent composition, and that the *multivalent composition* is the agent for active immunotherapy. See, *e.g.*, the description in the Field of the Invention, at page 1, line 6-7, which states that the disclosed recombinant cells " . . . provide large quantities of recombinant proteins suitable for immunotherapy . . .".

Nonetheless, for business reasons and without acquiescing to the Examiner's arguments, and reserving the right to prosecute the original or similar claims in one or more future applications, claims 25 and 28 are herein amended to recite "A cell expressing a multivalent composition, said multivalent composition for active idiotype immunotherapy, said cell produced according to a method comprising." Claim 29 is similarly amended.

The Examiner admits that the post-filing art has demonstrated that recombinantly expressed idiotype protein is effective at evoking an immune response, especially when conjugated to a carrier protein such as KLH (office action page 2). The specification clearly contemplates this use and describes production of multivalent compositions using the cells and clones of the presently claimed embodiment of the invention (see, *e.g.*, page 100, line 5 to page 101, line 21), and the conjugation of the multivalent compositions to

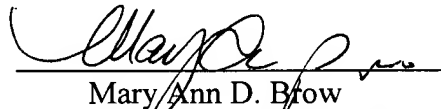
protein carriers such as KLH (see, *e.g.*, page 101, line 22 to page 102, line 5). Applicant also teaches a number of other approaches for boosting immune response to the compositions produced using the instantly claimed cells and clones. See, *e.g.*, page 102, line 15 to page 103, line 15. As such, Applicant submits that the specification enables the presently claimed invention.

For the reasons recited above, Applicant submits the claims as amended meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 1, and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all reasons for rejection should be removed and Applicant's claims should be passed to allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (608) 218-6900.

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